

Libertarian Party

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Newsletter

NUMBER 3

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LP's PUBLIC DEBUT A SMASHING SUCCESS

On January 31, the National Office of the Libertarian Party held its first Press Conference, to publicly announce the formation of the Party, publicize libertarian stands on the issues of the day, and reveal goals and strategies for 1972. The results were tremendous.

Lengthy (and largely favorable) stories were carried in every major paper in Colorado. In addition, we received coverage on one TV station and four radio stations; two radio stations have requested in-depth interviews. The New York Times ran a major story in its February 6th edition. And UPI interviewed Temporary LP Chairman Dave Nolan for a major feature story, to be sent out over their national wires, to all papers and radio/TV stations.

As a result of this publicity, over 50 people contacted Party HQ in the first week after the conference -- including several who phoned long distance. And inquiries are still coming in.

In sum, our first press conference generated more publicity for the libertarian movement than any other single event since the publication of Atlas Shrugged ... at least, as far as we know. This completely vindicates our original belief that libertarians can do more to reach the public by becoming involved in the political process than by any other means ... and demolishes forever the claim that political action is "futile" or "inconsistent with libertarian principles."

During the past month, the National LP has also been active in building organizational strength. A Temporary Executive Committee, made up of leading libertarians around the country, has been formed (see p. 2). State organizations now exist in Colorado, Texas, Utah and Wyoming, with California, Michigan, Florida and New York on the verge of organizing.

Membership has nearly doubled in the last 30 days, with our goal of 1,000 members by June now appearing conservative. But, our growth and progress depends almost entirely on your getting out there and hustling. Only you can reach the libertarians in your area; we'll provide material, but you must do the rest. And remember, those cash prizes for recruiting the most members can be yours as well as anyone else's!

We'll do our part; full-page ads are scheduled in Reason, Individualist, and Abolitionist (which is changing its name to Outlook). And we've sent out over 2,000 ad reprints, to date. Nonetheless, the bulk of the recruiting effort must come from you.

An example of what can be done is the leaflet produced by the Colorado Libertarian Party (enclosed). LP organizations and members in other states are welcome to copy this leaflet, with such modifications as they desire.

TANSTAAFL

TEMPORARY EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Unlike some organizations, the Libertarian Party is not going to be one of those outfits where a small clique of self-appointed leaders runs the show, and everyone else does all the work. At the Convention in June, National Officers and an Executive Committee will be elected: for the interim, however, a Temporary Executive Committee has been appointed, to hasten the process of decentralization. To assure geographic balance, the country has been divided into eight regions, and one or more Party members from each region have been appointed to the Temporary Executive Committee. These individuals were chosen on the basis of past achievements and degree of enthusiasm shown for the LP concept, plus a determined effort to make sure that all age-groups and philosophical schools are represented according to their strength in the Party.

REGION 1 (WEST)

John H. Taylor
7407 Alvarado Road, Sp 48-C
La Mesa, Calif. 92041

REGION 2 (MOUNTAIN)

Karl Bray
425 W. 800 N.
Provo, Utah 84601

REGION 3 (MIDWEST)

Guy Curtis
229 W. 9th
Imperial, Neb. 69033

REGION 4 (S. CENTRAL)

Mike Holmes
Box 66321
Houston, Texas 77006

REGION 5 (GREAT LAKES)

June Grem
P.O. Box 385
Oak Park, Ill. 60303

Peter McAlpine
12297 Pine
Taylor, Mich. 48180

REGION 6 (SOUTHEAST)

Mark Coleman
805½ Miccosukee Road
Tallahassee, Fla. 32303

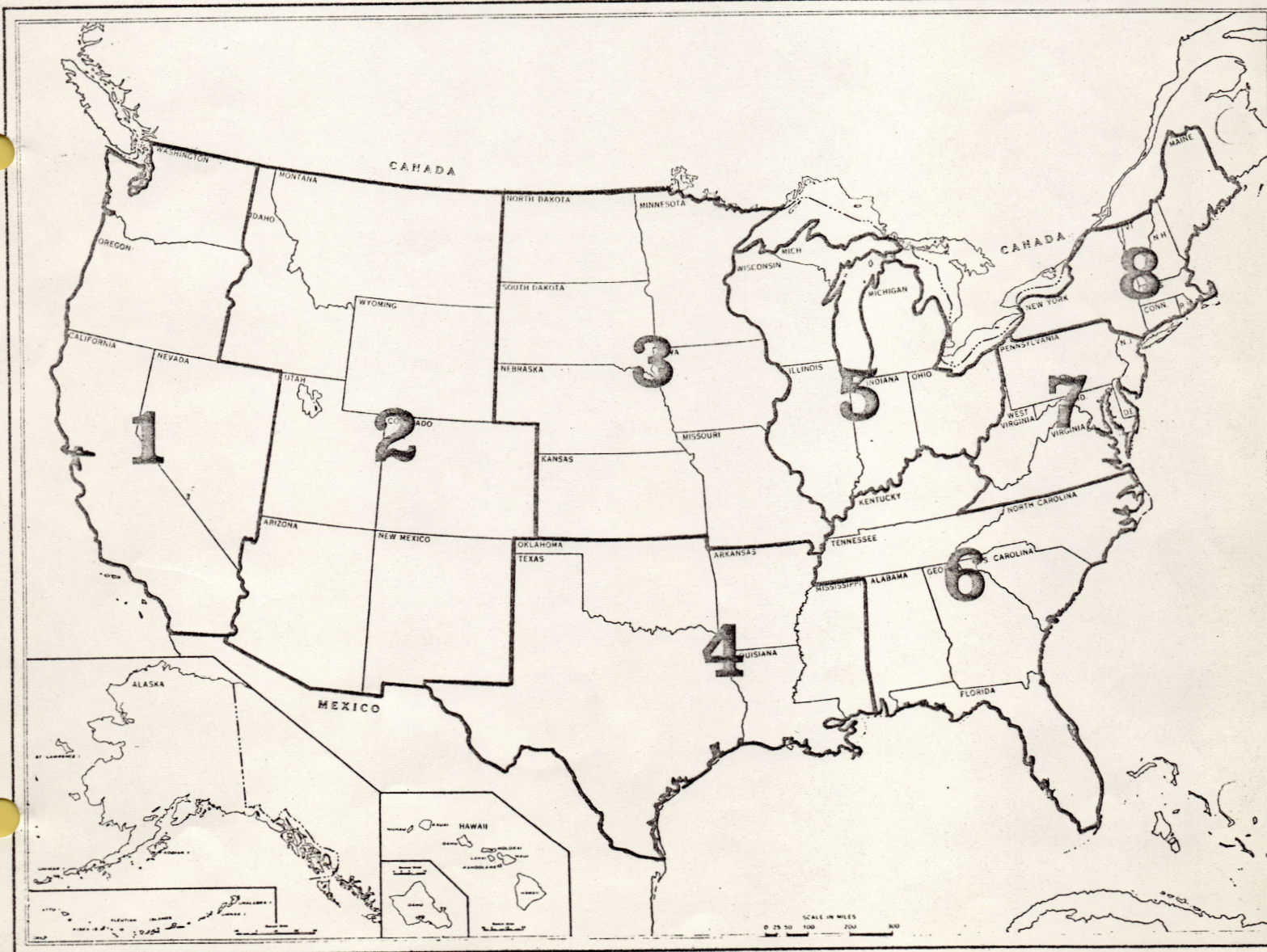
REGION 7 (EAST)

Vacancy; Applications Welcome

REGION 8 (NORTHEAST)

Mark Frazier
Lowell B-11, Harvard Univ.
Cambridge, Mass. 02138

Paul Lepanto
P.O. Box 1221
Poughkeepsie, N.Y. 12602



I. TRICKY DICK & HONEST JOHN

By the time this Newsletter reaches you, Deceitful Dick Nixon will be about to embark on his pilgrimage to Peking, where, presumably, he will commune with his spiritual brethren, the masters of the largest slave-labor camp on Earth. Meanwhile, back in New Hampshire, Congressmen Ashbrook and McCloskey will be out pounding the campaign trail, in a futile attempt to convince Granite State Republicans that the one-time wheel-of-fortune Barker for Prescott, Arizona's Slippery Gulch Rodeo should be denied re-nomination for the Presidency.

Nixon's perfidy needs no elaboration; anyone who still thinks that Rascally Richard offers any hope to libertarians is simply retarded. But what of Ashbrook and McCloskey? Is there any chance that, as a few people have suggested, libertarians can form an alliance with either of these gentlemen?

Let us first consider Mr. McCloskey. McCloskey is, for the most part, a "one-issue" candidate -- and his one issue, the Indo-China war, is becoming less important every day. On other issues, McCloskey is a moderate "liberal." The semi-socialist ADA gives him a rating of 55, while the moderate-conservative ACA gives him a 41, and the hard-line-conservative Review Of The News gives him a 21. In sum, McCloskey is no better than Nixon. Furthermore, his chances of accomplishing anything are almost nil; if he receives more than 10% of the vote in New Hampshire, it will be a miracle, and it is unlikely that he will remain in the contest for the GOP nomination beyond March or April. Thus, there is no reason, either moral or strategic, for libertarians to become involved with McCloskey.

Ashbrook, in contrast, is at least superficially appealing on several counts. His record in the area of economic issues is good (ADA 0; ACA 98; RN 94). On civil-liberties issues, he's no worse than most, and better than many. And on foreign policy, he's fair -- for a strong domestic defense system, but too interventionist to qualify as a true libertarian. All in all, Ashbrook would have to be rated as fair-to-good, although perhaps more on the "fair" end of the range. To his credit, however, is the fact that he is one of the very few Republican Congressmen who has openly condemned Nixon -- and for the right reasons, and in no uncertain terms.

It is a sad commentary on the current state of affairs that Ashbrook, with all his drawbacks, is one of the best members of the House of Representatives; nonetheless, this is the case, and the fact that it is so has caused a few LP members to suggest that we might be well-advised to abandon our plans to run our own Presidential candidate, and throw in with Ashbrook, instead.

Unfortunately, there are several drawbacks to this approach. First, and most important, there is very little chance that Ashbrook will be able to topple Nixon. It is certainly not beyond the realm of possibility that Ashbrook can make a respectable showing in the GOP primaries -- perhaps even to the extent of drawing 30% of the vote. However, even assuming that he does this well, what will he accomplish?

At most, he might force Nixon to withdraw. If this happens (and it seems unlikely that a power-freak like Milhous voluntarily give up the throne), the best one could hope for is that the GOP will nominate someone like Ronald Reagan -- who is no prize to begin with, and who would have to make so many concessions to the liberals to assure "party unity" that the net result would be totally unacceptable to libertarians (e.g. a Reagan-Rockefeller ticket, with Nixon as Secretary of State).

More likely, a strong showing for Ashbrook will simply prompt The Great Deceiver to make a few minor concessions to the National Review crowd -- like pledges to keep Spiro the Zero on the ticket, and to push for more spending in the area of defense. Promises like these are hardly the stuff of which libertarian dreams are made -- and, even if they were, there is no assurance that Richard the Lyin'-Hearted would keep them, once re-elected; the only promise he could be held to would be that of keeping Agnew as VP.

Thus, there is little to be gained by throwing in with Ashbrook, on a long-range basis, unless he indicates unequivocally that he will carry his challenge to Nixon into the general election in November, if Nixon is re-nominated. And even then, there is considerable doubt that libertarians would be wise to do so. It is hard to imagine Ashbrook endorsing even 50% of the planks in our platform, and unless he were willing to do this, we could not legitimately endorse him.

Therefore, in this writer's opinion, our best strategy vis-a-vis Ashbrook is the following:

- 1) Those LP members who are inspired to work for Mr. Ashbrook between now and June, simply to embarrass and harass Deceitful Dick, should feel free to do so.
- 2) At the Libertarian Party convention, in June, a resolution can be introduced, stating that the LP will withdraw its own candidates, and endorse Ashbrook, if and only if Ashbrook continues his challenge to Nixon after the GOP convention, and also publicly endorses at least 50% or more of the planks in our official platform, as adopted at the convention. Whether or not this resolution passes will of course depend on the judgement of the convention delegates.
- 3) In the meantime, we should proceed full-steam-ahead with our efforts at creating an effective LP organization, nationwide -- so that when Ashbrook bows out and endorses Nixon (as he is almost certain to do), there will be someone for Ashbrook's supporters to turn to.

* * * * *

NOTE: In future issues, we will deal with other political developments, as they occur. For this reason, the March issue will be published approximately one week late, in order to allow us to comment on the results of the New Hampshire and Florida primaries.

The Libertarian Party Newsletter is published on the 15th of each month, by the national office of the Libertarian Party. Items of interest to political activists in the libertarian movement are welcome. Editor: David F. Nolan.

MEMBERSHIP GOALS

1,000 by Convention Time

10,000 by Election Day

Extra copies of this Newsletter may be ordered at \$1 for 10.

WILLIAM F. RICKENBACKER

LP member Ken Ryan of Idaho recently sent in an excellent article entitled "The Law Forbidding Sin" by William F. Rickenbacker which appeared in the January 21, 1972 issue of National Review. It presents an excellent case for the repeal of all our "stamp out sin" laws including drug laws, bedroom laws, usury laws, and vice laws. Look for it.

GOOD GUYS AND BAD GUYS

After many years of using the ACA rating system and the ADA rating system to determine the standings of our Senators and Congressmen, it began to appear that something was wrong. According to these systems, things just weren't as bad as we all know they are. Well, a new rating system published by Review of the News (Belmont, Massachusetts 02178) seems to have things much more in perspective. The issues used to rate the Senators and Congressmen are primarily economic ones and according to Review of the News, "to earn a 100 rating ... [he] must have taken a position in favor of individual liberty every time." Since Barry Goldwater, the highest-scoring Senator, received only a 75 and there were only 10 Representatives scoring 80 or above, the ratings seem much more realistic to libertarians. Copies of the ratings may be ordered from Review of the News at seven for a dollar for up to 100 copies.

THE CASE FOR A LIBERTARIAN PARTY

An article of the above title has finally appeared in the "July/August" issue of The Individualist. It was written by LP Chairman David F. Nolan and outlines the reasons for the LP. The issue can be obtained from The Individualist, 400 Donifant Road, Silver Spring, Maryland 20904 for \$1 per copy.

If enough of you feel that this article would be a good recruiting tool, we will publish reprints of it. We will have to have the orders before printing, however. Please use the form on page 4 to place your order. If enough are received we will reprint the article and send your order with a bill. The price will be 10¢ a copy, but please don't send money--we will bill you if we undertake the project.

PLATFORM PLANK ALREADY HAS MUCH SUPPORT

The National Committee to Legalize Gold (1524 Hillary, New Orleans, Louisiana 70118) is mounting a massive campaign to repeal the prohibition on gold ownership. As this affords an excellent opportunity for us to push for one of our Platform planks, we urge all LP members to write their Congressmen and also the members of the House Committee on Banking and Currency in support of Phillip Crane's HR 1258 and John Schmitz's HR 6790. Further information can be obtained from the National Committee to Legalize Gold.

NEWSPAPER READERS NEEDED

Since our press conference on January 31st, many papers have been carrying articles on the Party. However, since Associated Press and United Press International stories can appear anywhere, we need you to notify us of stories in your local press. Also, since many of you are becoming quite active, we need press coverage of your local activities as well. For each clipping sent to Headquarters we will pay either \$1 cash or \$2 in party materials--please specify what payment you wish when submitting the clippings. Also, if possible, they should be marked with the name of the paper and the date.

CAMPAIGN TECHNIQUE MANUAL

An excellent reference book on all phases of electioneering is available from the National Association of Manufacturers at \$3.00 per copy. We have been using the book here at National and feel that it would be of great help to any of our members. A description with order form is enclosed.

MEMBERSHIP CARDS ENCLOSED

Readers who are LP members will find their current membership cards enclosed. All are dated January 1972 so your renewals will not be due until next January if you joined at any time prior to February 1st, 1972. Those joining after February 1st will have their cards mailed with their membership kits.

SUBSCRIBERS

Those of you who have recently subscribed to the LP Newsletter, remember that your subscription price may be applied to a membership--so join us soon!

MANY THANKS

To all of you for your excellent comments on the Temporary Platform. To date we have received only "excellent" and "good" ratings on the Platform in general. However, we did receive many specific suggestions which will be turned over to the Platform Committee at the Convention. We are taking this way to thank all of you who commented, as individual responses are not possible--Fortunately, we are very busy at National Headquarters! We have already distributed 1000 copies of the Platform, but please keep your orders coming--we must get the Platform out to as many people as possible prior to election day.

CORRECTION

In our listing of Ballot Requirements last month we showed the date 10/31/72 for the state of Missouri. The correct dates are 8/14/72-8/31/72. By the way, we still need data for the District of Columbia, Alabama, Alaska, Delaware, Idaho, Iowa, Mississippi, Nebraska, and Tennessee.

LATEST LIBERTARIAN RIP-OFF

There's a group out in California, we hear, that's trying to get libertarians to join a "League of Non-Voters." For \$7.50, we understand, you can become an "active non-voter"...whatever that is.

We have no quarrel with those libertarians who choose to abstain from voting, unless they try to claim that copping out is the only moral thing to do. We do think, however, that there are better ways to spend \$7.50 than paying not to vote...like, for instance, on a couple of cases of beer, or a subscription to Reason for your local library.

TEXAS LIBERTARIANS INTERVIEW LP CHAIRMAN ON RADIO

Texas LP leaders Keith Jones and Mike Holmes interviewed Temporary LP Chairman Dave Nolan, via telephone, on the January 20th broadcast of their weekly radio program in Houston. For 15 minutes, the three discussed the Party's Temporary Platform, the underlying philosophy, and the Party's plans for action in 1972. If there's a radio station in your area that would be interested in doing the same thing, contact them -- and LP Headquarters -- to arrange a similar interview; it's a good way of reaching potential members in your area.

CONVENTION NEWS

The dates of our first National Convention have been finalized. It will be held in Denver, June 8th through 11th. Dale Nelson has accepted the post of Convention Arrangements Chairman and may be reached at Headquarters for any questions concerning the Convention. Definite plans as to activities, exact location and accomodations will be announced as they are formalized in future newsletters.

ORDER FORM

_____ copies of the Membership Application (no charge up to 50 copies)
_____ copies of the ad preprint (2¢ each; minimum order 50 copies)
_____ copies of the Platform (4/\$1; 10/\$2; 25/\$4; 50/\$7; 100/\$12)
_____ copies of the January Newsletter (10/\$1)
_____ copies of the February Newsletter (10/\$1)
_____ copies of "News Release Tips" (10/\$1)

I also wish to pre-order _____ copies of the article THE CASE FOR A LIBERTARIAN PARTY at 10/\$1. No payment for this item is enclosed. I understand that I will be billed when my order is shipped.

PLEASE MAKE YOUR CHECK PAYABLE TO LIBERTARIAN PARTY.

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CLEARLY!

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